

CLEAN SET OF CLAIMS

1. A system comprising:

a directory of identifiers to a plurality of network services;

an engine for receiving requests and using said identifiers to direct said requests to access  
said network services when requested;

a plurality of drivers for interfacing with said plurality of network services and with said  
engine; and

a plurality of service providers accessible to said plurality of drivers for providing  
network services identified in said directory.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said directory includes metadata for each of said  
plurality of network services in said directory.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said metadata defines a schema of a network  
service's input and output interfaces.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein said metadata further includes configuration  
parameters for configuring a driver associated with said network service.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said network services are accessible via an API.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said network services are XML based network  
services.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said a network service provider comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing a response.

5 8. The system of claim 1 wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what network services are needed, directs requests to the appropriate network services via said network service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein said requests comprise HTTP requests.

10 10. The system of claim 1 wherein said access to said system is accomplished via a web browser.

11. A method for accessing network services comprising:  
15 storing identifiers of a plurality of network services in a directory;  
providing requests to an engine wherein said engine use said identifiers to direct said requests to access said plurality of network services when requested; and  
interfacing with said plurality of network services and with said engine via a plurality of drivers based on said requests.

20 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said directory includes metadata for each of said plurality of network services in said directory.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said metadata defines a schema of a service's input and output interfaces.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said metadata further includes configuration parameters for configuring a driver associated with said network service.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein said network services are accessible via an API.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein said network services are XML based network services.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein said a network service provider comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing a response.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what network services are needed, directs request to the appropriate network services via said service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

19. The method of claim 11 wherein said requests comprise HTTP requests.

20. The method of claim 11 wherein said access to said system is accomplished via a web browser.